



SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in June to 3.9 percent from May's rate of 3.8 percent, as shown in Seaport Table 1. In June 2003, the rate was 4.4 percent. Total *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* showed an increase of 210 from May 2004. However, year-over-year data show a decrease of 980 jobs from June 2003. In spite of the year ago decreases, the increase in June, which is usually a strong employment month, is good news. Jobs in *Education & Health Services* continue to increase.

SPECIAL TOPIC: North Central Idaho City Population

The population in rural North Central Idaho (NCI) cities between 2000 and 2003 decreased, according to recently released data by the U.S. Bureau of Census. State-wide the census estimates reconfirmed that since the late 1990s, Idaho's growth has been concentrated in the Boise and Coeur d'Alene areas. Details are shown in Seaport Table 2 on page 10.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Clearwater County

- The U.S. Forest Service is in the process of researching the possible consolidation and relocation of 23 positions from the Clearwater National Forest, and hundreds of jobs nationwide, in an attempt to deal with high overhead costs so that the forests have more funding to spend on natural resource projects. The Clearwater County jobs would be moved to an unknown central location outside of Idaho. According to Kimberly Nelson of the Clearwater National Forest, in addition to the 18 human resource positions, three positions within information technology and two budget and finance positions are affected by similar studies. According to Nelson, local Forest Supervisor Larry Dawson brought the concerns regarding the economic impact of such a decision on this already economically stressed rural community to the attention of the Chief of the

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	Jun 2004*	May 2004	Jun 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	35,460	35,050	36,290	1.2	-2.3
Unemployment	1,400	1,340	1,610	4.5	-13.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.8	4.4		
Total Employment	34,060	33,710	34,680	1.0	-1.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	35,470	35,050	36,290	1.2	-2.3
Unemployment	1,300	1,190	1,500	9.2	-13.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.4	4.1		
Total Employment	34,170	33,860	34,790	0.9	-1.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	25,970	25,760	26,950	0.8	-3.6
Goods-Producing Industries	4,490	4,410	4,670	1.8	-3.9
Natural Resources & Mining	210	210	230	0.0	-8.7
Construction	1,120	1,030	1,250	8.7	-10.4
Manufacturing	3,160	3,170	3,190	-0.3	-0.9
Wood Product Manufacturing	560	550	560	1.8	0.0
Food Manufacturing	250	140	140	78.6	78.6
Paper Manufacturing	1,190	1,190	1,160	0.0	2.6
Other Manufacturing	1,160	1,290	1,330	-10.1	-12.8
Service-Providing Industries	21,480	21,350	22,280	0.6	-3.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,270	5,420	5,530	-2.8	-4.7
Wholesale Trade	600	590	630	1.7	-4.8
Retail Trade	3,450	3,570	3,600	-3.4	-4.2
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,130	1,170	1,210	-3.4	-6.6
Information	350	350	390	0.0	-10.3
Financial Activities	1,850	1,850	1,850	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1,330	1,280	1,570	3.9	-15.3
Education & Health Services	4,020	3,910	4,030	2.8	-0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	2,450	2,470	2,640	-0.8	-7.2
Other Services	1,060	1,080	1,120	-1.9	-5.4
Government Education	2,380	2,260	2,250	5.3	5.8
Government Administration	1,900	1,860	2,070	2.2	-8.2
Government Tribes	870	870	830	0.0	4.8

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Forest Service, Dale Bosworth. No news has been released regarding that contact.

Idaho and Lewis Counties

- Sport fishing in Idaho generates hundreds of millions of dollars in spending every year bringing much needed dollars to rural areas while adding millions of dollars in tax revenue to state coffers. According to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, anglers added \$438 million to the state's economy last year, and the Clearwater region (North Central Idaho) netted the biggest portion at \$87 million. More than 470,000 fishing trips were made to the region with the greatest percentage of the money spent on restaurants and groceries,

followed by transportation, fishing tackle, equipment, hotels and campgrounds, and finally outfitters and guides. Anglers each spent an average of \$1,100 in 2003 or \$112 per day while averaging nearly 10 days of fishing. "Sport fishing in the state is a tremendous economic engine," said Fish and Game Fisheries Chief Virgil Moore. "Most of us fish because it's just fun, but in the process of having fun we spend money, and that is important to our local economies and perhaps more important than anything, the rural economies of this state." That kind of spending is critical to small-town communities like Riggins and Orofino where anglers come to fish for steelhead and salmon.

Latah County

- With the grain harvest barely underway farmers are optimistic. Crops appear to be slightly better than normal this year, due mostly to timely rains in late May and early June that helped the grain to mature. Farmers throughout the region suffered low spring crop yield last year because of dry soil conditions and relentless hot weather that kept the grain heads from filling out properly. Farmers are expecting overall success this year, which will coincide with prices nudging the \$4.00 a bushel mark, according to Tom Riedner of CLD Pacific Grain in Lewiston. "No one's finished anything, so there's no idea of the yields," Riedner said. "From what's coming in, it's pretty good quality." According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture trading charts in early August, soft white wheat at Portland was selling for \$3.98 to \$3.99 per bushel. A year ago that price was \$3.65 to \$3.68 a bushel. Continued good prices will depend on world stocks, export demand, and how well the harvests turn out in competitor nations such as Canada and Australia. Russia and other former Soviet states are also putting some pressure on the world market, supplying what until a few years ago they have been buying from the U.S. and other producers. Riedner said China has finally come into the market for soft white wheat and could be a lucrative customer in the years ahead. Egypt also buys a great deal of grain from the Pacific Northwest, as well as Japan and Korea. Pakistan may also figure into the mix this year, he said.

Nez Perce and Asotin (WA) Counties

- Two sources of adult refreshments in North Central Idaho and Southeastern Washington have changed hands. King Beverage, an Anheuser-Busch distributor in Spokane, has purchased Frontier Distributing, which served Lewiston, Moscow, and Pullman, and Valley Beverage, which covered Clarkston and Walla Walla. Two area warehouses were closed following the purchase—one operated by Valley Beverage in Clarkston and one operated by Frontier Distributing in Pullman. All 20 employees in Lewiston, Clarkston,

Moscow, and Pullman were offered jobs with King Beverage, said Ted Rusnak, president and chief officer of King Beverage. King Beverage has plans to expand the operation of the former Frontier Distributing at 2004 Fourth Avenue North in Lewiston, a move that could boost employment there. The warehouse has a capacity to handle 600,000 cases of beer a year. But Rusnak hasn't decided whether to overhaul the building or find a new location.

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Seaport Table 2: Population of North Central Idaho Cities, 2000-2003

Location	July 1, 2003 Population	July 1, 2002 Population	July 1, 2001 Population	Census 2000 Population	Population Change Census 2000 to July 1, 2003	Percent Change Census 2000 to July 1, 2003
Clearwater Co.	8,401	8,469	8,628	8,930	-529	-5.9%
Elk River	140	142	146	156	-16	-10.3%
Orofino	3151	3152	3215	3247	-96	-3.0%
Pierce	561	569	584	617	-56	-9.1%
Weippe	386	386	394	416	-30	-7.2%
Idaho Co.	15,413	15,498	15,452	15,511	-98	-0.6%
Cottonwood	1008	1021	949	944	64	6.8%
Ferdinand	147	149	143	145	2	1.4%
Grangeville	3146	3184	3201	3228	-82	-2.5%
Kamiah	1160	1153	1119	1160	0	0.0%
Kooskia	666	675	678	675	-9	-1.3%
Riggins	404	410	411	410	-6	-1.5%
Stites	225	225	225	226	-1	-0.4%
White Bird	106	106	106	106	0	0.0%
Latah Co.	35,087	35,045	35,182	34,935	152	0.4%
Bovill	298	302	303	305	-7	-2.3%
Deary	534	543	548	552	-18	-3.3%
Genesee	915	929	938	946	-31	-3.3%
Juliaetta	591	600	605	609	-18	-3.0%
Kendrick	358	363	366	369	-11	-3.0%
Moscow	21,707	21,514	21,613	21,291	416	2.0%
Onaway	223	227	228	230	-7	-3.0%
Potlatch	759	773	780	791	-32	-4.0%
Troy	774	785	790	798	-24	-3.0%
Lewis Co.	3,748	3,729	3,619	3,747	1	0.0%
Craigmont	554	553	536	556	-2	-0.4%
Nezperce	515	515	502	523	-8	-1.5%
Reubens	72	71	69	72	0	0.0%
Winchester	307	307	298	308	-1	-0.3%
Nez Perce Co.	37,699	37,171	36,983	37,410	289	0.8%
Culdesac	375	372	372	378	-3	-0.8%
Lapwai	1,126	1,115	1,114	1,134	-8	-0.7%
Lewiston	30937	30543	30433	30904	33	0.1%
Peck	185	183	183	186	-1	-0.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Release July 2004